

Minutes
Traumatic Brain Injury Advisory Council
Dorothea Dix Campus, Council Building Rm 201
Raleigh, North Carolina
September 20, 2006

Members Present		
Sandra Farmer	Stephen Hooper	Marilyn Southard for Carol Robertson
Martin Foil	Marilyn Lash	Jamesa Selleck
David Forsythe	Charles Monnett	Elsie Siebelink
Bob Gauldin	Elizabeth Newlin	Tom Winton
Flora Hammond	Jo Perkins	
Tonia Harrison	Holly Riddle	

Members Absent		
David Atkinson	Al Hart	Scott Segraves
Spencer Clark	Patrick O'Brien	Robert Seligson
Lynn Freeman	Sharon Rhyne	
Betty Gardner	Carol Robertson	

Others Present		
Veronica Bohannon	Ana King	Jan White
Sandy Ellsworth	Grey Powell	
Cary Harrison	Matt Selleck	

The meeting was called to order by Marilyn Lash, Vice Chair, at 10:07 a.m. She welcomed all council members and guests and introductions were made. Those present shared information on what their role is on the Council.

Review of Minutes:

Ms. Lash requested that members review the minutes from the June 21, 2006 council meeting. No corrections or additions were noted.

Motion: A motion was made by Martin Foil, seconded by Jo Perkins. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

DIVISION UPDATES

HRSA (Health Resources Services Administration) TBI Grant

Sandy Ellsworth briefed the Council on the Federal HRSA grant which is \$300,000, over a 3 year period, and will be used to assess the needs of the Local Management Entities and implement training. One of the goals of this grant will be to fund the creation of a fourth community/family information and referral resource center in the western region of the state. A second goal will be to develop training on brain injury.

Jan White reported that there is a program called the "ThinkFirst" program for school age children that will educate children about brain and spine injuries and how to use common daily habits to prevent these kinds of injuries. Ms. Lash requested information regarding efficacy of the ThinkFirst Program. Ms. White will research data from the "ThinkFirst" program and

present it to the Council at the next meeting. Ms. White sits on a gun safety subcommittee and plans to provide information to the youth on gun safety and helmet safety as well. Ms. White also met with researchers at UNC who are looking at concussions during sport activities; she will incorporate this information into her prevention activities. Ms. Lash noted that there is free information about concussion at the CDC website.

Ms. Ellsworth and Ms. White attended the NASHIA Conference in Baltimore on traumatic brain injuries this summer. They attended a session on homelessness and brain injury. Sandy Ellsworth reported that she is working with the "PATH" program for the homeless population. There is a need to provide training for the "PATH" participants on brain injury.

Ms. Ellsworth stated that approximately \$1.6 million in TBI requests for state funds have been received. There are only .8 million in funds available which makes it hard to select the recipients. Ms. Ellsworth also mentioned that there is a \$500,000 Mental Health trust fund that could be used for needs assessment and possibly to fund more service provision.

TBI Advisory Council Membership Update

Dr. Hammond, Dr. Seagraves, and Liz Newland have recently been appointed to the council. Ms. Ellsworth reported that she is still working with the administration to have the remaining vacant positions filled.

TBI State Plan

The committee discussed the development of a TBI State Plan. It was suggested that a rough draft of a "lead agency" plan be prepared and then compared to the state TBI plan and then join the two as one plan.

The question was asked about the role of the TBI Council. Marilyn Lash stated that the Council's responsibility is to advocate for services and to collaborate with multiple state agencies to strengthen the statewide service delivery system for brain injury. Mr. Forsythe said that he sees the Council's role to advocate the issues and push for legislation. Ms. Perkins shared that she is making it a priority to be more active with the legislature. Ms. Selleck suggested working both sides of the house; ask for personal one-on-one meetings and contact the Raleigh staff at the legislator's office to get the names and contact info for the Washington DC legislators. Ms. Perkins suggested sending a thank you letter from the Council to the legislators thanking them for their support. Ms. Farmer will draft a letter and present it to Ms. Lash and Ms. Rhyne to finalize. Ms. Lash stated that the "hot topics" need to be put into a 12-month strategic plan.

Committee Reports

Legislative Policy Committee

Ms. Farmer stated that the Legislative Policy Committee needed to regroup on support of the TBI bills proposed in the 2006 session. The new priorities suggested were: Medicaid Waiver, Trust Fund and increasing the line item for TBI funds in the budget. She stated that the Legislative Policy Committee's strategic plan should include two levels for promoting legislation. One would be to promote our bills which we endorsed during the last session and the other would be in support of bills which further our prevention cause such as laws in support of helmets, use of seat belts, domestic violence and substance abuse. Ms. Farmer further stated that we needed to look at the National level such as Medicare and Medicaid laws and look at gathering data on the cost benefits of rehab. She gave out a handout from the NASHIA

Conference, which she also attended, which described the state of Medicare and Medicaid. A discussion ensued among members regarding Medicaid and waivers.

Health Services and Services Delivery

Mr. Stephen Hooper reported for Betty Gardner, Chairperson for this committee. In the committee report, Mr. Hooper suggested that a spreadsheet needs to be developed identifying services offered under the TBI funds. Ms. Ellsworth stated that the costs had not been broken down at this time. Mr. Forsythe would like to see a break down of the available TBI funds according to the funding sources and cost per person. He stated that he was working on a spreadsheet that showed services offered and funding sources but he was not yet prepared to show it to the entire Council.

Injury Prevention and Surveillance

No committee report was given.

Review of Council's Responsibilities and Plan for the Next 12 Months

Ms. Lash directed the Council's attention on discussing the priorities of the Council for the next 12 months. She suggested that this be accomplished by the identification of 3 greatest unmet needs/services and the identification of 3 top priorities that the Council chooses to address in the next 12 months. She stated that the top priorities must be identified in the next three months as the Legislature comes back in January.

GREATEST UNMET NEEDS/SERVICES

- Where does someone go for immediate care?
- Where does someone go for rehabilitation?
- What do I do when I complete rehab?
- How is it funded?
- Where can a person go for help if they don't have health insurance?
- What funding is available for long-term care?
- Quality residential care
- Getting the message out; public awareness and education
- Transportation
- Model program – urban vs. rural (use the 4 regional service agencies identified by BIANC)
- Long term placement entities
- Intensive rehabilitation
- Data use – develop effective tool
- Underserved Populations
- School Transition
- Assistive Technology
- Intensive neurobehavioral treatment

PRIORITIES

- ✓ Visibility
- ✓ Terms of the definition of “acquired” brain injury
- ✓ Public awareness
- ✓ TBI information for family support – case management training
- ✓ Flexible services and supports
- ✓ Identifying meaningful employment
- ✓ Neurobehavioral units
- ✓ Pathway of care linking services

- ✓ Defining Systems of Care by region
- ✓ Training school staff/school nurse on TBI or minor brain injury
- ✓ Flow chart for services from adolescent to adulthood
- ✓ Assistive technology
- ✓ Day treatment programs
- ✓ Licensure

POINTS OF DISCUSSION

1. TBI data/information/public awareness fact sheet
2. Train teams of families and persons with brain injury to speak with legislators through grass roots advocacy
3. Develop legislative packet with basic TBI data and reasons to support proposed legislation
4. Prepare a cost data packet (cost of group home care, etc. vs. cost to family)
5. Identification of responsibilities for each state agency in regard to TBI (to be documented with accountability in the state plan)
6. Prevention of brain injuries; recommendation for effective programs.
7. Support of related legislation such as seat belt law, gun locks, etc.

Ms. Lash thanked everyone for their input. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting date is December 13, 2006 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Dix campus.

Respectfully submitted,
Veronica Bohannon
Program Support